

Office of the United States Attorney District of Arizona

PRESS RELEASE

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MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO 27 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR ALIEN SMUGGLING

TUCSON, Ariz. – Jose Jesus Robles-Dominguez, 19, of Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here today to 27 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Frank R. Zapata. Robles-Dominguez had been charged with two counts of violating Title 8, U.S. Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), 1324(a)(1)(B)(ii), and 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), Transportation of Illegal Aliens while placing their lives in jeopardy. Robles-Dominguez pleaded guilty to both charges on April 25, 2005.

On February 27, 2005, Tucson Border Patrol Agents and Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers attempted to stop an extended cab truck driven by Robles-Dominguez near Arivaca, Ariz. Robles-Dominguez failed to yield the stolen truck he was driving which contained six undocumented aliens, including one who was seated on the floorboard of the truck holding a small child in her arms. A high-speed chase ensued but Border Patrol had to suspend its pursuit for safety reasons as Robles-Dominguez was traveling at speeds in excess of 90 miles an hour, crossing the center dividing line and forcing other vehicles off the road.

Robles-Dominguez eluded Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers and avoided one deployment device. He was unable to avoid another deployment device, but with two flat tires, Robles-Dominguez continued to flee until he lost control of the truck and crashed into a cement guard rail near Valencia Road on Interstate 19. Robles-Dominguez bailed from the vehicle and ran into a carnival where, with the assistance of carnival workers, agents apprehended him. None of the undocumented aliens was injured in the crash.

Robles-Dominguez had also been charged with Felony Endangerment in state court but the charge was dismissed in lieu of federal charges filed.

The investigation in this case was conducted by officers of U.S. Border Patrol and the Arizona Department of Public Safety. The prosecution was handled by Raguel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

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